

# The FBI File

- Johnson Suspected CIA Was Involved In Kennedy Murder
- RFK Paid \$500,000 To Hush Up President's Love Scandal

By HARRY ALTSHULER

**T**wo more bombshell sensations about President John F. Kennedy have just been disclosed in papers secret until now: one dealing with his romantic life, the other with his assassination.

Kennedy's successor, President Lyndon B. Johnson, also suspected the CIA's involvement in JFK's death, it is now shown.

Last week, MIDNIGHT/GLOBE told how the bullets Lee Harvey Oswald used to kill Kennedy had come from the CIA, the government's own spy organization. Now the revelation of the late President Johnson's suspicions add one more corroborative item to charges that the CIA was in effect a secret super-government, going its own way ruthlessly.

In the recently-opened 40,001 pages from FBI files on the Kennedy assassination, it is revealed how President Johnson told an aide, Marvin Watson, in 1967, that "he was now convinced there was a plot in connection with the assassination and that the CIA had something to do with this plot."

The other new sensation has to do with a half-million-dollar "payoff," just before JFK's inauguration, to hush up a scandal.

It is outlined in private files just made public of former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, whose attitude is difficult to determine: it might have been either a spirit of helpfulness to JFK and his brother, Bobby, or a little genteel blackmail to show them he knew all about the matter.

The woman in the case as named in Hoover's file is Alicia Purdom, one-time wife of movie actor Edmund Purdom. According to the FBI file she is now Alicia Corning Clark of New York, widow of the Singer sewing machine heir Alfred Corning Clark, and heiress to his fortune.

## Suit

The story has come out because of a Freedom of Information Act request by New York Times columnist William Safire. Mrs. Clark is not available for comment.

Between JFK's election and his inauguration, the report states, she brought suit against him in New

# JFK: TWO NEW

# SHOCK SECRETS



ALICIA CLARK, who was Alicia Purdom in the days when JFK knew her. Here she's at a sidewalk cafe in Rome.



LYNDON JOHNSON  
and CIA



JUDITH EXNER  
love calls



J. EDGAR HOOVER  
helpful?



BOBBY KENNEDY  
cover-up



SAM GIANCANA  
Cuban connection

## Suit

The story has come out because of a Freedom of Information Act request by New York Times columnist William Safire. Mrs. Clark is not available for comment.

Between JFK's election and his inauguration, the report states, she brought suit against him in New York. Hoover wrote to RFK, then Attorney General, on June 4, 1963:

"When this suit was filed just prior to the President's assuming office you went to New York and arranged a settlement of the case out of court for \$500,000. All papers relating to this matter, including the complaint, allegedly were sealed by the court."

Alicia's complaint, it appears from the context, is that she was "jilted" by JFK in 1951. Hoover's letter to Bobby cites a story in an Italian magazine, quoting Alicia as saying she had been engaged to JFK, whose father, she said, vetoed it

because of her Polish-Jewish descent.

Later on, to remind Bobby that the story was still on his mind, Hoover ordered an aide to tell the Attorney General that even though the documents in the case had been sealed by the court, someone was making efforts to peddle copies of them.

Bobby, it seems, never bothered to reply to J. Edgar Hoover's memos.

Alicia's history is a strange one: she entered the U.S. as a "displaced person" and first lived in Boston. She be-

came known as a painter under the name Alicia Darr. In 1957 — after the JFK affair was long over — she married English actor Edmund Purdom, and the marriage ended in a Mexican divorce in August, 1961.

## Dates

The following month she married Clark — who died just 13 days after the wedding. She was his sixth wife, and inherited his fortune.

In Rome, Purdom recalled "a lot of talk" from Alicia and friends about the check she supposedly received. "She would wave it around and say that one day she was going to cash it," Purdom thought — but he could not recall ever actually seeing such a check. He said she often talked about JFK and was a frank admirer of him.

Hoover's private file brings in Judith Campbell Exner, who claimed a sex relationship with President Kennedy in her book, "My Story." JFK's secretary, Evelyn Lincoln, scoffed at Judith's tale of frequent phone calls with the White House to make dates, but an FBI memorandum related:

"She is the individual who had been in telephonic contact with Evelyn Lincoln, the President's secretary." The

memo also noted that Judith had been "in telephonic contact with Sam Giancana, Chicago gangster, and with other underworld figures."

Giancana, later the victim of a gangland-style killing, was one of those the CIA used in attempting to set up a plot to murder Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

President Lyndon Johnson's aide, Marvin Watson, relayed Johnson's plot suspicions over JFK's death to the FBI in 1967, where an FBI official, Cartha D. DeLoach, made this note: "... Reminded Watson that the director (Hoover) had sent over to the White House all the information in our possession in connection with CIA's attempt to use former agent Robert Maheu and his private detective outfit in contacts with Sam Giancana and other hoodlums, relative to fostering a plot to assassinate Castro."

## Front

Maheu is a shadowy figure who weaves in and out of assassination plot theories. He was a CIA agent, then an outside "front" in a private business, which apparently was used to channel secret

payments to CIA agents. During another period he was a top man in the Howard Hughes organization. There is suspicion that he was the one who made the link between the government and the Chicago mobsters when it was decided in 1960, at a meeting in New York, to knock off Castro. This is the contention of assassination expert Mae Brussell.

President Kennedy knew that all the plotting and counter-plotting endangered his life. After the Bay of Pigs disaster, he told former President Nixon, "If I do the right kind of job I don't know whether I'm going to be here four years from now. If someone is going to kill me, they are going to kill me..." The words are cited in "The Assassination Chain" by Sybil Leek and Bert R. Sugar, published by Corwin Books.

"He also recognized," says this book, "that the danger to his efforts to end the Cold War lay in the power of the CIA, which he knew to be a policy-making body over and above its foreign-intelligence role." Ending the Cold War was something the CIA didn't want him to do, the book charges.



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